

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXVIII NO. 5

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$5 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1975

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The graduation exercises were well attended Sunday afternoon at the Hoke High Stadium and the rain held off so that the weather fitted into the affair in perfect manner.

The old saying goes that "April showers bring May flowers". From the looks of the weather chart this week for the month of May, the flowers had more showers.

The reunion of the 1934 and 1935 classes of Raeford High School will be held this weekend. The class of 1934 will have 19 of 34 members present, and the class of 1935 will have 30 members present.

Raz Autry sent in another letter this week, and I will run it as it does not concern the schools of the county. It is something that should concern all citizens, young and old, in Hoke County.

I would like to especially thank the seniors. These young people could have used the excuse that they had already graduated so why should they help, but they didn't. They came out and led the way.

We sent 35 loads of beer cans, bottles, and general trash to the dump. We only touched the surface. It was quite distressing and a real eye opener for some of our folks.

If our citizens would just take a few minutes to think, our county would be a cleaner and more beautiful place to live. It will take a total commitment from all of us to make any type beautification project successful.

This letter is self-explanatory. Dear Mr. Morris, The members and leaders of Brownie Troop 352 would like to express their appreciation to their sponsor, Howell Drug, and to the Raeford United Methodist Church for the use of its facilities during the past year.

Kindergarten Drawing Monday

The first drawing for kindergarten for the 1975-76 school term will be held Monday, June 9 at 9 A.M., Superintendent of Schools G. Raz Autry announced.

Ceilings On Food Stamps Go Up July 1

Maximum monthly income standards for food stamp households will go up July 1, the Department of Agriculture announced.

City Budget

No Tax Hike, No Pay Raise

Gift And A Deadlock At Hoke Board Meet

County commissioners gave a gift and deadlocked on a vote Monday at the June meeting.

The gift was a lounge chair presented by the commissioners, county manager and staff to T.C. Jones, former chairman of the board of commissioners, who retired last fall.

The deadlock came on a disagreement over sending youngsters to a state youth council seminar. With Commissioner J.A. Webb absent due to illness, the board split two-two on a motion by Tom McBryde not to send any representatives to a week-long seminar at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill this summer.

see the need for a Chamber of Commerce now even more than ever." Lovett said the new slate of directors intended to correct any deficiencies in the Chamber's performance and continue projects such as securing dentists and physicians and developing an area brochure.

After hearing from Jeff McNeill on the operation of Four County Community Service Agency, the commissioners approved a resolution to return most of the programs to be funded under federal manpower training grants back to Region N, with a recommendation that the training be administered by the Four County agency.

McNeill told the commissioners that his agency had been administering the manpower programs for years and could administer Hoke's with no increase in staff.



Bertha Hollingsworth

Murder Charge Lodged

A suspect was arrested and charged with murder in the stabbing of a 27 year old Raeford man Monday afternoon.

James Edward Purcell, Box 182, Rt. 3, Raeford, was stabbed in the chest at the home of William and Sara Livingston in the Jones Hill section, Sheriff D.M. Barrington said.

Bertha McLean Hollingsworth, 26, a granddaughter of the Livingstons, was charged with the slaying and ordered held without bond.

Board Delays Dress Codes

A decision on a new dress code for the schools was postponed at least until fall following discussion at the board of education meeting Monday night.

According to superintendent Raz Autry, the board will wait for recommendations from principals and the school attorney before taking any further action on dress regulations.

Turning to other business, the board agreed to strictly enforce the rule against solicitation in the schools and prohibited the sale of paper and supplies at school.

'Case Not Over', Says DA

Driver In Manslaughters Pleads To Other Charges In Mixup

The driver charged with manslaughter in the highway deaths of three people here in March pleaded guilty in District Court to reckless driving and driving left of center because of a mixup which had rumors flying and court officials shaking their heads last week.

William Lowery, Jr., 21, of Wakulla, had been charged with driving under the influence, reckless driving, and driving left of center in connection with the accident near an Antioch church which left three people dead. He was indicted April 21 on three counts of manslaughter.

Lowery appeared in court May 23 with no lawyer present, although he had received court appointed counsel in March. Lowery pleaded guilty to reckless driving and driving left of center and signed the waiver of right to counsel.

Dupree said no announcement of any plea bargaining agreement was made to the court, and he accepted the pleas and sentenced Lowery. "I knew this man had been charged with manslaughter in this case, and I thought he was stupid to be pleading guilty to the two charges) but that's what he wanted to do", Dupree said last Friday.

of the May 23 judgment from a reporter last Friday and expressed surprise. "I don't know how that happened", Economou said, "I didn't know the case was scheduled that week. He (Lowery) was supposed to be in court May 16, and he wasn't here."

Area Incidents

Fire Eyed As Arson

Arson is suspected in an early-morning fire Monday at the County Line Grocery on Duffey Road, Sheriff D.M. Barrington said.

A caller reported the burglar alarm was ringing about 12:30 a.m., and deputies found the back of the building in flames.

The Red Springs Fire Department put the blaze out. No estimate of damage had been made by Tuesday, but deputies termed it "thousands of dollars", according to the report.

Barrington said several persons are being questioned, but no arrests have been made. In other incidents, a Cumberland County man has been arrested and charged in the Sunday afternoon shooting of a Ft. Bragg soldier.

McFadyen said an agreement to reduce the manslaughter charges to misdemeanor death by vehicle and allow Lowery to plead guilty was rejected by Superior Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood in April because of the judge's interpretation of the law.

Hobgood ruled that death by vehicle, which became law this year, was not a lesser included offense under the existing manslaughter statute, and therefore, new warrants would have to be drawn up. McFadyen said.

Conviction of manslaughter carries up to ten years in prison. Death by vehicle is punishable by a maximum two year prison term.

Economou said nothing definite had been reached on a plea bargain, and termed matters "still up in the air". He suggested that Lowery may have misunderstood the exact nature of the charges against him.

Economou, after conferring with McFadyen, recorded a notice of appeal of the judgment with the clerk of court's office. Dupree said he contacted Economou later and advised him to file a petition requesting the judgment be set aside.

Since Lowery had paid a portion of the fine and also signed the probation order, no appeal of the judgment can be lodged. His probation supervision has already been transferred to Robeson County Probation Office in Lumberton.

Lowery is also being sued for \$75,000 by the widow of one of the victims, Calvin Stultz.

Fund For Kathy Begun

It takes sweat and money for a good athlete to reach for the stars. For months, Kathy McMillan has been working hard, getting ready for a crack at a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. Now she needs the money to compete in some of the national qualifying meets.

Rose's Office Here Saturday

The mobile office of Congressman Charles G. Rose will be in Raeford Saturday June 7 from 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. The van will be parked near the post office.